

**Sullivan County Delegation
Meeting Minutes of
Friday, March 24, 2006, 9 AM
Place: Newport County Complex**

Attendees: Representatives John Cloutier – *Chair*, Larry Converse – *Vice Chair*, Tom Donovan – *EFC Vice Chair*, Peter Franklin, Harry Gale Jr., Charlotte Houde-Quimby – *EFC member*, Arthur Jillette Jr. – *Clerk*, Stephen Prichard – *EFC member*, Beverly Rodeschin and Joe Osgood.

Delegates Absent: Representatives Brenda Ferland, Christopher Irish and James Phinizy.

Other attendees: Commissioners Donald C. Clarke and Ethel Jarvis; County Manager Ed Gil de Rubio; members of the press.

John Cloutier, Delegation Chair, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Jarvis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings

Rodeschin moved and Gale seconded that the Minutes (corrected version #3) of June 28, 2005 with the following corrections at the top of page 9 = 9 yes and 4 no be approved. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Rodeschin moved and Gale seconded that the minutes of January 27, 2006 be approved. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Rodeschin moved and Houde-Quimby seconded that the Minutes of February 17, 2006 be approved. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote following a lengthy discussion of the manner in which the corrections to the June 28th report were developed. Rep. Osgood suggested that the names of absent delegation members be reported as part of the minutes. It was agreed that this would be done in the future.

There was a discussion regarding the hiring of a transcriptionist to type up the meeting minutes. Rep Rodeschin and Rep Ferland volunteered to assist the County Manager in securing a transcriptionist. Rep Cloutier will work with this group and the County Manager to resolve this.

Committee Reports:

Rep Converse reported that he had missed a building committee meeting. Rep Cloutier encouraged the Delegation members to attend Finance Committee meetings to be held during the next two months.

Old Business:

Genesis Contract: Rep Franklin asked questions regarding how the Genesis gross revenue figures were developed. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated that he would supply an answer to the delegation in less than 5 days.

Rep Rodeschin moved and Rep Houde-Quimby seconded, that the Delegation Chair be given the authority to request in writing, information from the County Manager, the information sought by Rep Franklin and to provide the answers to the delegation by mail. Rep. Gale voiced the opinion that this matter had been previously resolved by a vote of the delegation some weeks ago. Rep Osgood felt that he could not support this motion. Rep Gale stated that he could not support the motion. Motion to move the question passed by voice vote. Roll Call vote on motion: Converse N, Franklin Y, Gale N, Houde Quimby Y, Jillette Y, Osgood N, Prichard N, Rodeschin N, Donovan N, Cloutier Y, Vote = 6N, 4Y- MOTION FAILS!

A five-minute recess was declared. The December 28, 2005 minutes were examined to determine the disposition of resolutions following Rep Gale's report. It was determined that the County Delegation recommended that all questions regarding the County Budget be addressed in writing to the County Manager. Rep Franklin noted that no formal policy was established by the resolution.

Rep Gale moved and Rep Donovan seconded that: The Sullivan County Delegation require that any members of the delegation seeking information regarding the County Budget do so only by a written request to the County Manager (with a CC to the Commissioners and the other members of the County Delegation. Rep Franklin voiced the opinion that the motion was illegal. Rep Osgood felt this was establishing policy within the purview of the delegation. Rodeschin moved and Gale seconded to move the question. Motion passed on voice vote with one nay vote (Rep Franklin). Vote on the motion: Converse N, Donovan Y, Franklin N, Gale Y, Houde-Quimby N, Jillette N, Osgood Y, Prichard Y, Rodeschin Y, Cloutier Y. Six Y Four N – MOTION PASSES!

Rep Franklin passed around a letter dated Feb 5, 2006, which he sent to the County Manager, which contained questions regarding the reported revenue figures. As he began to discuss issues raised in this memo ...

Rep Gale, seconded by Rep Osgood moved to refer these matters to the County Manager. There was a motion by Rep. Gale, seconded by Rep Rodeschin, to call the question via a roll call vote. Vote to call question: Converse N, Donovan Y, Franklin N, Gale Y, Houde-Quimby Y, Jillette Y, Osgood Y, Prichard Y, Rodeschin Y, Cloutier Y. THE VOTE WAS 8-2 IN FAVOR OF CALLING THE QUESTION. Vote on Motion To refer the questions raised by the letter of Rep Franklin Dated Feb 5, 2006, including whatever additional information he wishes to submit to the County Manager: Converse N, Donovan N, Franklin N, Gale Y, Houde-Quimby N,

Jillette N, Osgood Y, Prichard N, Rodeschin N, Cloutier N. MOTION DEFEATED: 2-8!!

Rep Prichard expressed concern about communications between the delegation and the County Manager. He feels the delegation should either support the Commissioners or tell them to fire the County Manager. He expressed a desire to find more cooperative ways to deal with such issues. Rep Osgood commented that we should be solving problems. Rep Prichard stated that he feels we must eliminate the atmosphere of suspicion. Rep Gale stated that we have been given an abundance of opportunities to attend County meetings and to become aware of how the County is carrying out its business.

Rep Rodeschin stated that it is the Commissioner's responsibility to hire or fire the County Manager. Rep Houde-Quimby that she has legitimate issues to raise, but does not feel we should be tossing about statements about firing staff. Rep Osgood feels that the policy is something we bring into play when staff is feeling harassed. Rep Franklin raised questions about gross revenues and net revenues during various months as a basis for Genesis payments. There were additional comments from other Representatives.

Rep Rodeschin indicates that she must take her leave due to other pressing business.

Rep Franklin passed out information pertaining to the MQIP funds received since 2004. Rep Prichard asked Rep Franklin to summarize and get to his points, and indicated his need to move forward to other subjects.

Motion made by Rep Gale and seconded by Rep Prichard that these issues and questions of Rep Franklin be taken up by Rep Franklin with the County Administration and Auditors with notice CC to the Commissioners and Delegation of the actual meeting date so that all interested may attend. Comm. Clarke expressed his concern with the implication that the auditors or staff was not performing their jobs correctly. Vote on the Motion: Converse N, Donovan Y, Franklin AB, Gale Y, Houde-Quimby Y, Jillette Y, Osgood Y, Prichard Y, Cloutier Y. VOTE IN FAVOR Yes Seven, No One, Abstain 1.

It was agreed the Rep Cloutier would arrange a future meeting with the Auditors.

Rep Donovan indicated his desire to have the Genesis Plan for the completion of services to the county be brought forward and explained. Rep Cloutier indicated that will be an agenda issue at a future meeting.

Sunapee Issue

Rep Cloutier passed out copies of correspondence between the Sunapee Selectmen, Rep Gale and the County Delegation. In essence, the Sunapee Selectmen rejects any meeting between themselves and the County Delegation regarding issues between the Town of Sunapee and County Government. Rep Cloutier expressed his disappointment with the response of the Sunapee Selectmen. He had hoped that such a meeting would have led to

the development of legislation that could have been supported by the county to resolve issues. Rep Prichard stated that he felt that the County should produce a press release that would explain the County's position and actions to date. It was decided that Rep Prichard and Cloutier would work together to develop a press release for publication at a later date.

Rep Houde-Quimby moved and Rep Prichard seconded, that the tapes of the meeting with state officials regarding MQIP and other grant programs be preserved for the education of future county delegations. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Clarke invited the delegation to a meeting to be held by the Commissioners regarding planning issues for county facilities.

The next meeting of the full delegation will be at the call of the Chair. Rep Cloutier reminded everyone that it is important to attend meetings of the Budget Committee.

At 12:02 PM, Rep Prichard Moved and Rep Hode-Quimby seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Gillette Jr.", written in dark ink.

*Arthur Gillette Jr. , Clerk
Sullivan County Delegation*